

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1 and 48-51 remain in the application. Claims 48 and 50 have been amended. Claims 49 and 51 have been canceled.

Claims 48-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

Claims 48 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sugimori. The Examiner indicated that Claims 49 and 51 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 48 and 51, respectively, to more clearly set forth that setting the compression ratio of the color plane to be higher than a standard compression ratio for the color component of which proportion has been determined to be small. See page 43, lines 4-12.

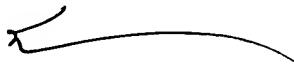
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that Claims 48 and 50 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 10/18/02

By: 
Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
(408) 720-8300